

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 31, 2015 Contact: Betsy Kirkeby (406) 444-3343

Public Comment Sought on Proposed 2015 Trail Grant Applications

-Comments due by Friday, May 8 at 5pm-

(Helena, MT) – Montana State Parks (<u>stateparks.mt.gov</u>) is seeking public comment on Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant applications for the 2015 grant cycle which closed on March 6. <u>The public comment period is open through Friday, May 8 at 5pm.</u>

RTP received 89 grant applications this year. Project applicants requested approximately \$3.27 million from Montana's Recreational Trails Program. It is anticipated that around \$1.4 million in funding will be available. The extremely high number of applications received demonstrates the high demand for trails and trail-related projects across Montana.

RTP grant funds can provide assistance for trail projects, including development and rehabilitation work on urban, rural, and backcountry trails; planning and construction of community trails; snowmobile and cross-country ski trail maintenance and grooming operations; and a variety of trail stewardship and safety education programs statewide.

A complete list of the trails grant applications under consideration is accessible online http://stateparks.mt.gov/. Click on "Trails" tab in the right hand navigation and go to "Recreational Trails Program."

<u>Public Comments must be received by 5:00 p.m. on May 8</u> and can be submitted online at: http://stateparks.mt.gov/news/publicNotices/rtp/pn 0001.html

Or by email to: FWPRecreationalTrails@mt.gov bshumate@mt.gov,

Or by regular mail to: Montana State Parks, Trails Program, 1420 East Sixth Ave., P.O. Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620-0701. Copies of individual RTP applications are available by request at (406) 444-4585.

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) is federally funded and is administered and managed by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks with oversight from the Federal Highway Administration. RTP funding is

made available through the recently passed Surface Transportation Bill called Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21).

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